

VIENNA RESEARCH GROUPS 2027

AI/ML for Vienna

W|W|T|F

Call 2027

WWTF

Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators



AI/ML for Vienna

The 18th Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators Call 2027 can fund up to four group leader positions as part of WWTF's ICT program.

Scope of the Call

The focus is on two parallel tracks:

1) "Foundational AI/ML Research": candidates who advance the theoretical or methodological foundations of AI/ML in their own right. 2) "Advancing discipline(s) with AI/ML": candidates from any other discipline (e.g. life sciences, physics, environmental sciences, social sciences and humanities...) who develop or advance AI/ML concepts or methods to address open questions in their own field. In both cases, the proposed work of the future research group is expected to make genuine methodological contributions to AI/ML or to the respective discipline via the development or advancement of AI/ML tools and concepts, rather than merely applying existing tools, and to demonstrate the ambition to advance the state of the art. Engagement with Vienna's broader AI/ML research community is encouraged.

Candidate's profile

- VRG leaders are young researchers, generally postdocs, who seek to advance their research career by establishing an independent research group and assuming leadership responsibility for several group members.
- VRG candidates are up to eight years after PhD; care duties may extend this period up to four years. WWTF takes unconventional research careers into consideration.
- WWTF especially encourages Vienna-based research institutions to propose female group leaders. The successful appointment of a female VRG leader is rewarded with a financial benefit in the amount of € 60.000 for the Vienna host institution to support its gender mainstreaming activities.

Eligibility & characteristics of a Vienna Research Group (VRG)

- The call invites universities and research institutions in Vienna to apply together with a promising young scientist for a group leader position. Active recruitment procedures are mandatory.
- VRG leaders are independent in designing their research and recruiting their staff.
- The prospective host institution in Vienna has to provide a well-defined career track leading to a tenured position or an equivalent career path.

Funding

- WWTF can fund up to four positions with up to € 1.8 million per research group over a period of six to eight years.

Timeline

- Information session (online): 21 January 2027, 2pm CET
- Submission deadline: 2 March 2027, 2pm CET
- Hearings and Jury Meeting: September 2027 (exact dates tbd)
- Funding decision: October 2027

Process

- Application via WWTF Funding Portal
- International Peer Review
- Hearing with an international jury
- Please check the Call Specifications for all details.

WWTF

Vienna Science
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